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Kentucky Warbler

*"To sift the
sparkling from the
dull, and the true*

*from the false, is
the aim of
every Ornithologist."*

Vol. XXVI

MAY, 1950

No. 2

BIRD CHANGES IN MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, 1938-1949

By GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green

Before the land now in Mammoth Cave National Park was acquired by the state and turned over to the National Park Service, there were five rather distinctive ecological areas: 1. the Cypress Sandstone ridges, such as Joppa Ridge and Mammoth Cave Ridge, remnants of a plateau that contains much good farming land in Edmonson and adjoining counties; 2. the cliffs at the edges of this formation; 3. the sinkholes; 4. the Pottsville Sandstone hills and ridges, largely north of Green River but extending into sections south of the river; and 5. the stream bottoms. The ridges had been farmed since early pioneer times and had often been so depleted of their soil that hundreds of acres had been retired from cultivation and had become "old fields." The cliff edges, constituting a very large area, were still in timber and varied from open to rather dense vegetation. Between the ridges are valleys of old streams that were on the surface until they cut down to the limestone strata and thus found underground outlets. The old valleys are largely a chain of these sinkholes, some of them of great extent. The Pottsville Sandstone area differs from the Cypress Sandstone in being slightly more fertile when first cleared but subject to rapid erosion soon afterwards. Along the streams is a narrow, fertile floodplain, which constituted the best farming land in what is now the park.

Bird life in these five divisions varied somewhat. Naturally, there were more birds in the cultivated sections: the river bottoms and the ridges. Field and meadow birds

abounded in these: Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus. savannarum*), Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), and, in migration, the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Since the hilltops and cliff edges were still largely covered with timber, the typical woods birds were found there: the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), the owls, the woods warblers, such as the Kentucky (*Oporornis formosus*), the Cerulean (*Dendroica cerulea*), the Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), and the Parula (*Parula americana*). A very distinctive bird of the big woods was and still is the Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylatomus pileatus*). Around the Historic Entrance a large section of timber remained. There was another large wooded area north of Green River known as the Big Woods (See map). At the edges of the cultivated fields, whether on the ridges or in the river bottoms, almost all the distinctive birds of this part of the state could be found, just as today a walk on the trails that have been built in the Historic Entrance section will reveal nearly every kind of bird found in the park.

Land for the park was acquired over a period of years after the authorization act of 1926 was passed by Congress. Some of the land was retired from cultivation in the early 1930's, so that seral changes had already begun on a considerable scale before I started my intense study in 1938. I had had a casual contact with the area since 1909, but my walks and camps had been confined largely to the Mammoth Cave Ridge and to the places easily reached from the river. In this study I am using the data compiled on 126 field trips taken from 1938 to 1949, consisting of 242 days and 121 nights.

The changes in plant life are fairly regular in the fields that were formerly cultivated. For a year or two after plowing ceased annual weeds grow on, succeeded by broomsedge and goldenrods. Broomsedge soon dies of its own dead stems unless they are removed by cutting or by fire. When it dies, goldenrods flourish until they are crowded out by blackberries and sawbriers. In the old fields that were so weakened in fertility the broomsedge continues for many years. Along the streams the fields passed rapidly from the preliminary stages and are now pretty well grown up in small timber. The uplands are in various stages of development, from broomsedge to young forests. It will be years before the depleted ridges will be completely forested.

Many changes in plant life have been aided or made by man since the park was bought from the original owners. The CCC boys filled up hundreds of gulleys, planted hundreds of thousands of black locusts and pines, reduced fire hazards by cutting down dead timber, and thus destroyed many habitats and created others equally as good. In more recent years the Soil and Moisture Conservation work of the National Park Service has continued this work by stopping erosion. Many washed-out hillsides of three and four years ago are now in excellent vegetation and are showing signs of a more speedy return to a forest complex than the other open fields that have not been treated.

Just as the annual weeds, with their crops of bird food, disappeared soon after land ceased to be cultivated, the meadow birds disappeared in great numbers, moving to the farm land just outside the park. In the period under study I have not seen a Bobolink in migration or a Grasshopper Sparrow or a Dickcissel in summer or migration. The Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*) has appeared only twice in these last twelve years, an interesting commentary on how much it depends on cultivated fields for its distinctive prey. The Killdeer is one of the rarest birds of the park now, since cultivation has ceased. In fact, I have no record of the species since May 3, 1942, and very few since 1938. The Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*) has practically disappeared since the barns in the area were torn down, but the Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*) still remains in its former numbers at its four most common haunts: the Historic Entrance, the two ferries, and the Beaver Pond. The Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus hudsonius*), never very common but rather regularly seen in winter in the farming sections of southern Kentucky, has appeared only twice in the period of this study, for it, like the Migrant Shrike, finds its food largely in farm areas. Similarly, the Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) has retired outside the park to the cultivated farms. A strange contrast is that the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) has become very scarce, though the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) has shown no signs of change. It is obvious that there will be no comeback for these farmland species; most of them will probably become less common than they now are.

Birds that frequent the yard, orchard, and garden have lost numbers almost equally with those of the meadows and cultivated fields. The Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) is now rarely seen in the park, appearing oc-

casionally around the few remaining houses. Both the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) and the Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) have decreased in numbers, too, the Baltimore being even less common than it has become outside the park in the last ten years. The Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), which nests around many a farmhouse, has been recorded only once in twelve years in the park: by Mr. Leonard C. Brecher, of Louisville, on May 4, 1947. Except in such places as the site of the New Entrance Hotel, the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) is very rare; the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) is a little more common than the Mockingbird but is far below its numbers outside the park. With the passing of farms and feeding places for stock the number of the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) has gone down until both species can be listed as rare birds. The thousands of Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) in winter and dozens in summer in adjoining farm areas are represented in the park by a few dozens at best. Thousands of the old orchard trees remain, but there are no adequate feeding places in garden or field to maintain the former large bird population.

Numerous species that could hardly be called either meadow or orchard birds have declined in numbers. The Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*), so common at the edges of cultivated fields in spring and summer, is now very rare; I have on several occasions driven to the edges of the park to listen for these birds, usually without success. The Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) is usually rare, but in late-summer migrations there are sometimes large flights across the area for a few days. The Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) persists, but its numbers are still falling. Of the flycatchers, the only one that is decreasing noticeably is the Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). The Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus versicolor*), so abundant at Bowling Green, is represented by a few dozens at most, a few individuals generally. All told, thirty species of birds have definitely declined in numbers since the area became a park.

TABLE I

Species that have declined in numbers, 1938-1949

(R—Resident; W—Winter Resident; S—Summer Resident)

Marsh Hawk W	Crow R	Orchard Oriole S
Sparrow Hawk R	Bewick's Wren R	Baltimore Oriole S
Killdeer R	Mockingbird R	Bronzed Grackle S
Mourning Dove R	Brown Thrasher S	Cowbird S
Chuck-will's-wid. S.	Migrant Shrike R	Dickcissel S
Nighthawk S	Starling R	Savannah Sparrow W
Chimney Swift S	Warbling Vireo S	Grasshopper Sparrow S
Kingbird S	English Sparrow R	Bachman's Sparrow S
Horned Lark R	Meadowlark R	White-cr. Sparrow W
Barn Swallow R	Redwing S	Song Sparrow W

Careful counting of individual birds over a period of time, at all seasons of the year, would probably prove that many other species are slowly decreasing. That is a project that will be a challenge as the park still further grows up.

The number of species that seem to be increasing is in sharp contrast to the number of those decreasing. In most years the Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus* and *texasus*) is more often recorded than in the adjacent farmlands, but in recent years, especially in 1949, Bob-whites are far from common anywhere. Though the Chuck-will's-widow is declining, the Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) is rapidly extending its habitats over the new timber. Along the streams the Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*) is certainly far ahead of its numbers in farming areas and seems to be definitely on the increase. As early as 1938 the Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*) impressed me as being commoner than usual; that observation still holds, though the species could not be called abundant anywhere. Like the Acadian Flycatcher, the Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) seems to be adjusting itself to new conditions and spreading out beyond the older timbered regions. The Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrea*) and the Scarlet Tanager are the other two of this short list of birds that are gradually becoming more plentiful. Whether any more species will noticeably increase I cannot say. Certainly most of those now increasing, along with typical big-woods species that have held their own, add a wild flavor to the park that all ornithologists will welcome.

TABLE II

Species That Have Increased In Numbers, 1938-1949

Bob-white R	Hermit Thrush W	Hooded Warbler S
Whip-poor-will S	Yel.-throated Vireo S	Scarlet Tanager S
Acadian Flycatcher S	Oven-bird S	

TABLE III

Species that have remained approximately as they were before 1938

Green Heron S	Phoebe S (R?)	Yellow Warbler S
Wood Duck S	Wood Pewee S	Myrtle Warbler W
Turkey Vulture R	Rough-w'd Swallow S	Cerulean Warbler S
Black Vulture R	Purple Martin S	Sycamore Warbler S
Sharp-shi. Hawk R	Blue Jay R	Prairie Warbler S
Cooper's Hawk R	Carolina Chickadee R	La. Water-thrush S
Red-tailed Hawk R	Tufted Titmouse R	Kentucky Warbler S
Red-sh'dered Hawk R	White-b. Nuthatch R	Yellow-throat S
Broad-w'ged Hawk S	Brown Creeper W	Yellow-br'sted Chat S
Rough-leg. Hawk W	Winter Wren W	Redstart S
Yel.-billed Cuckoo S	Carolina Wren R	Summer Tanager S
Screech Owl R	Catbird S	Cardinal R
Horned Owl R	Robin R	Indigo Bunting S
Barred Owl R	Wood Thrush S	Purple Finch W
Ruby-throated	Bluebird R	Goldfinch R
Hummingbird S	Blue-gray Gnat'er S	Eastern Towhee R
Belted Kingfisher R	Golden-cr. Kinglet W	Slate-colored Junco W
Flicker R	Cedar Waxwing W	Tree Sparrow W
Pileated Woodp'ker R	White-eyed Vireo S	Chipping Sparrow S
Red-bel. Woodp'ker R	Red-eyed Vireo S	Field Sparrow R
Red-h'd. Woodp'ker R	Bl. & Wh. Warbler S	White-thr. Sparrow W
Yel.-bel. Sapsucker W	Prothonotary W'bler S	Fox Sparrow W
Hairy Woodpecker R	Worm-eating W'bler S	Swamp Sparrow W
Downy Woodpecker R	Blue-w'ged W'bler S	
Crested Flycatcher S	Parula Warbler S	

Of the 110 species included in this study—the 39 all-year residents, the 53 summer residents, and the 18 winter residents—72 species seem to keep about the normal numbers that they had before the park was established or that they have in adjoining areas. Some of these vary somewhat in numbers in migrations or in winter, but from year to year there is little observable change. There are some oddities about certain species that I have not yet worked out. Why does the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) nest so seldom in the park when it is rather commonly found with its brood on Barren River, twenty-five miles away? Why is the Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) less numerous than the Barred (*Strix varia*)? The Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) is apparently changing its nesting range, or its summer range, at least. For the last several years I have

found the species in summer in several parts of the park, as well as on the campus of Western, at Bowling Green; but as yet I have found no nest or immature young. Many species are very restricted in their habitats, especially summer residents. It took me a number of years to be sure of finding commonly such "woody" species as the Parula and the Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivorus pinus*). Now I find the Blue-winged in nearly every open clearing in the woods, the Parula in tall timber where there are lichen-covered limbs. In the same way I have come to find the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*) among the prostrate logs in deep woods, especially on hillsides. It will be interesting to watch further restricted habitats of these and other species.

The recent study by Dr. Harvey B. Lovell (1949) of the breeding birds at Otter Creek Park, shows several developments in an area in many ways similar to Mammoth Cave National Park, though much smaller in size. A parallel study of the two areas will form a challenging series of observations for ornithologists in the state for many years to come. It is to be hoped that younger observers will accept this challenge and extend their studies still farther, to such areas as the Cumberland National Forest and the shorelines of such man-made lakes as Dale Hollow, Wolf Creek, and Kentucky.

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THE FORMATION OF AN AQUATIC HABITAT

By JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville

Interesting habitats, particularly aquatic ones, are so often destroyed by the activities of the human race, that it is a pleasure to record the accidental creation of one. An interesting ecological change has recently taken place on our farm in Hopkins County. Because of the undermining activities of the West Kentucky Coal Company, a low spot near the west end of the farm sank lower, and a small marsh has been created. This marsh is now about 150 feet in length, about 40 feet at the widest central portion, and tapers to 6 feet at either end. To the willows already present has been added a large, bushy form of bog rush (*Juncus effusus*), and cattails have made a start.

The Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) I had seen there in winter, evidently as a regular winter visitant, but had overlooked the marsh in the spring of 1949 as being too small to attract breeding birds. Therefore, I was surprised to find on May 30 three young Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) large enough to fly and, better still, a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) nesting only 2½ feet above the water in a 20-foot willow near the center of the marsh. The nest was a crude platform of sticks, placed in a crotch formed by an overlapping limb, and held four large blue eggs.

Since there has been little, if anything, published on nests of Green Herons in Kentucky—despite their commonness as a summer resident—, perhaps notes on my occasional visits may be of interest. On June 8 I wrote, "Wearing boots, I waded in and approached the nest. It held 4 downy young, gray with yellow eyes, and with long gangling necks and legs. These evidenced curiosity but not fear. The parent bird showed much concern at my presence, finally coming to the adjoining willows. I soon departed." On June 15 I recorded, "Was surprised at the rapid growth the young herons had made since the eighth. They thrust up long necks and regarded me with big yellow eyes; their bills were orange inside. Being apprehensive, all four young climbed out of the nest and along the branches of the willow, twitching their stubby tails nervously. One, I noted, changed branches by hopping, while another swung by one leg, then caught hold with the other and was safe. None seemed likely to fall, since all clung tenaciously. One bird was somewhat smaller than the rest."

I did not get back to the marsh again until June 26. At that time I was able to find only three young birds. One,

presumably the smallest one, had perished, but the other three were now quite large, similar to the adults in general coloration of plumage, and able to flutter among the willows and squawk, when I approached them. This was my last visit, but it seems fairly certain that the brood was seventy-five per cent successful.

FIELD NOTES

NEST-BUILDING BY THE YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

In the spring of 1949 we had the good fortune to observe the nest-building activities of a pair of Yellow-throated Vireos (*Vireo flavifrons*) from the back porch of our home in Sleepy Hollow in Oldham County, Kentucky. By cutting a hole in the screening, we were also able to take moving pictures in color of the event, which have been used to advantage in compiling this article.

The birds were first observed at 5 P. M. on May 3 singing near the back porch and later flying around in the trees. The next day Elizabeth Shackleton and Betty Glock spotted one of the Vireos on the limb of a beech tree perched close to a nest which was well advanced in construction. We watched the birds all the afternoon, taking moving pictures of their activities from time to time. A white strip of material had been tucked over each branch of the Y and, hanging basket-like between them, had been used to start the nest. Cobwebs and other similar stringy materials were brought and fastened over and around the limbs. The birds were pulling pieces into place or weaving them into the nest all the afternoon. Both birds helped with the nest building, but the female seemed to do most of the work. Occasionally one would sit in the nest to shape it. The male sang frequently. At 5:50 P. M. all activity ceased for the day.

On May 5 the Vireos were first noted at the nest at 3:30 P. M., when one returned to the nest, pecked at the material a little, and sang close by about 10 minutes (evidently the male). We pulled the limb down to examine the nest at 5 P. M., it contained no eggs. The Yellow-throated Vireos were not again seen to use the nest. They may have been frightened away by our proximity, although they did not seem afraid of us at the time. On May 12 a Red-eyed Vireo was twice observed pulling at the nest. Each time it tore off a piece and carried it away.

—WALTER and ELIZABETH SHACKLETON, Prospect.

LATE SHOREBIRD RECORDS FROM THE FALLS OF THE OHIO

On December 18, 1949, the Ohio River was so high that all the rock ledges below the Falls were covered with many feet of water. On the Indiana side the water was even with the cliffs, the top of which presented a small area of rocky habitat. Here feeding along an old concrete sewer were a small flock of six shorebirds. Two proved to be Red-backed Sandpipers (*Erolia alpina pacifica*), which had been last seen on November 2 (this, too, was a new late date for the region), three were Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*), and one looked very much like a Pectoral but had a heavier bill which was yellow at the base. In the afternoon I returned with Harvey Lovell. We found only two birds left, one a Red-backed

Sandpiper and the other the unknown. We observed the latter for a long time from a distance of only 20 to 25 feet. Subsequent study including the examination of skins of sandpipers in winter plumage has suggested that the unusual-looking bird was a Purple Sandpiper. However, since there appear to be no previous records for this species in the Ohio Valley and not very many from the Great Lakes Region; the identification should be considered very tentative until a specimen is collected. We know of no previous records for either the Red-backed or the Pectoral Sandpiper for December in this region.

—DONALD SUMMERFELD, Valley Station.

THE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING SEASON—1949-'50

KENTUCKY LAKE REGION—In spite of the generally mild winter, the number of ducks using Kentucky Lake was down at least 50% from the number using the same areas a year ago. The mid-winter inventory on January 14 showed a drop of 80% in the area that I censused. These low figures were apparently due to a brief spell of relatively cold weather with sleet and snow, during the first six days of January. A few Blue Geese wintered on the Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge. Five of these birds were reported near Eggner's Ferry bridge on January 19.

The spring migration so far (April 13) has shown smaller concentrations on Kentucky Lake than during the same period a year ago. This drop in numbers agrees with the report of the Fish and Wildlife Service that the ducks are on the decline again. In spite of this the hunting season in western Kentucky was the most successful in the last 4 years.

The spring migration of Blue and Snow Geese occurred apparently east of and up the Mississippi River instead of to the west of the river, as reported by Mr. Markley of the Tennessee Wildlife Refuge. In the Tennessee section of Kentucky Lake, Blue Geese and Snow Geese appeared in numbers during the first two weeks in March. A flock of Blue Geese stopped in the vicinity of Kentucky Dam at the northern end of the lake on March 21. On March 22, Conservation Officer John McClintock, reported a concentration of from 10,000 to 15,000 Blue and Snow Geese in the Kentucky Bend area of the Mississippi River.

An Old Squaw was seen on Kentucky Lake off the Dam on March 14. This bird was with a mixed flock of Scaups and Ring-necks. This is the first spring record of the Old Squaw for the region.

—JOHN S. MORSE, Route 3, Benton.

MADISONVILLE REGION—Very few ducks wintered in spite of the warm weather. On Brown Meadow Lake, Bacon and Clark Bailey, the Conservation Officer, recorded 25 Mallard, 3 Wood Duck, 118 Ring-neck, and 5 Canvas-back, but on the following day a tour of 11 lakes yielded only one small flock (unidentified) at Pleasant View Lake. Two Wilson's Snipe were recorded at Sunset Lake on December 29, 1949. Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to be scarce, especially in winter. They were not observed in Municipal Park this winter, perhaps because of the many Starlings settled there. Redwings have wintered in numbers. On January 12 we saw a flock estimated at 2000 birds. On January 16 in the same area there was a flock of 600 birds, partly Redwings and partly Rusty Blackbirds. The Brown Thrasher wintered for the first time in our experience. On January 12, Bacon, Clark Bailey and Hancock saw two Brown

Thrashers on the Frostburg Road. On January 19, Bacon trapped a Brown Thrasher at the Spring Lake Museum; it had been banded there by him on November 15, 1949. A Brown Thrasher was also seen in the same place on February 9. Some early arrival dates are the following: Purple Martin, March 26; Louisiana Water-thrush, March 30; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, March 31.

—BRASHER C. BACON and JAMES W. HANCOCK, Madisonville.

BOWLING GREEN REGION—Heavy rains have raised the water level at the McElroy Farm and other low areas in Warren County to produce the largest lake in many years. The water is so high that many of the roads are under water making access difficult. On March 4 there were fully 5000 ducks on the McElroy Lake alone. The Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Phoebe, and Wilson's Snipe all spent the winter here. I did not see a Tree Sparrow all winter, one of the few times I have missed it completely in over 30 years. The warm weather in December, January, and February is probably responsible. Spring arrivals, however, are not particularly early: Redwing, Feb. 18; Grackle, Jan. 25; Cowbird, March 5; Brown Thrasher, March 15; Canada Goose, March 12.

—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

LEXINGTON REGION—On the reservoir the most abundant ducks have been the Ringneck, Baldpate, and Lesser Scaup. The Ringnecks reached their greatest abundance in April, when 200 were present. Other ducks recorded were Mallard, Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Canvasback, Pintail, Bufflehead (one female), and Golden-eye (one female). Other water birds were 4 Loons, numerous Coots, and a few Pied-billed Grebe. Two Ospreys appeared at the reservoir about April 17. The only shorebirds noted were two Greater Yellowlegs and one Woodcock in mid-March. First dates for some migrants were: Chimney Swift, April 12; Phoebe, common on March 24; Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow, April 5; Brown Thrasher, common on April 16; Olive-backed Thrush, April 22; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, April 12; White-eyed Vireo, April 22; Louisiana Water-thrush, April 19; Hooded, Yellow, and Black and White Warblers, April 24. In general these are late arrival dates and indicate that the cold spring may have delayed many of the birds which winter in southern United States. This is my first spring in this region, and I am finding varied habitats difficult to find in this flat Bluegrass country. I have been covering many localities in the attempt to find good places for my class; so have not covered any one place intensively.

—ERNEST P. EDWARDS, University of Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE REGION—The winter of 1949-50 was exceptionally warm up to the last week in February. Both March and April were colder than usual. Rainfall has been greater than normal at least up to the middle of April, but there has been no snow at all. However, a bad ice storm lasted for three days, injuring trees, and must have been hard on wintering birds. Because of the warm winter we looked for unusual birds to winter. At Louisville a Brown Thrasher wintered for the first time. I trapped it in December, January, February, and again in April. A dead Woodcock was brought to me on March 4, picked up in a back yard near George Rogers Clark Park. This was at the end of a period of 5 days of freezing weather during which the ground froze fairly solid. As the bird was unmarked, it seems probably that it starved to death. On March 10 a Short-eared Owl was given to me by a student. It had been shot in southern part of Jefferson County by a farmer who claimed that it had been after his

chickens (a rather improbable activity for an owl). Tree Sparrows were unusually scarce this winter in the Louisville area. However, forty miles north in Indiana, they were common in mid-December. At least three Snowy Owls were reported by Burt Monroe for Kentucky in his newspaper column, the "Courier Sportsman." The one seen near Danville was the most southern record. Monroe also reported a flock of Pine Siskins at his home in Anchorage in late January, and at least one individual was observed for several months after this, as late of May 7. Donald Summerfield discovered a flock of six shore birds on the Indiana side of the Falls of the Ohio on December 18. The flock included Red-backed and Pectoral Sandpipers.

—HARVEY B. LOVELL, Louisville.

SPRING MEETING OF THE K. O. S.

By Annie L. Thacher, Secretary

The Spring Meeting of the K. O. S. began with a luncheon at the Henry Clay Hotel on Friday noon, April 14, 1949. Miss Edith Pearson was in charge of the luncheon. Forty-one members and friends were present. President Leonard Brecher presided.

Dr. Gordon Wilson discussed "SOME ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDIES NEEDED IN KENTUCKY." He urged members to work up the life history and distribution of certain species, the distribution of which is not well known, such as the Song Sparrow and House Wren. He showed how Kentucky is a changing state ecologically, and the bird life is changing with it.

Dr. Harvey Lovell spoke about "THE KENTUCKY WARBLER—ITS CONTRIBUTION AND ITS NEEDS." He displayed charts which showed how the journal had increased from 16 pages a year to 84 pages and the cost from \$20.00 annually to \$383.14. Other important advances have been the addition of a cover drawn by Albert Ganier in 1938, the addition of pictures in 1942, and a four-year index in 1948. The Smithsonian Institution has just purchased a back file and now is one of the few institutions having a complete set. This was made possible through the help of Oscar McKinley Bryens, who kindly returned to us Volumes 2-11.

A business meeting was held at 2:00 P. M. at which Don Summerfield was appointed chairman of the membership committee. It was voted to allow the executive committee to select the place of the next fall meeting, rescinding the action at the fall meeting. Dr. Wilson invited the society to Bowling Green for May 13 and 14 to study shore birds.

Evelyn Schneider gave a report on the status of the Endowment Fund. The Society owns six shares of stock in Jefferson Building and Loan and has received \$124.62 interest to date. A seventeenth life membership, that of Carlyle D. Chamberlain, will now make possible the purchase of an additional share.

"USING OUR COMMUNITY RESOURCES—BIRD STUDY IN A SIXTH GRADE CLASS," Miss Margaret Gibson and the pupils of a Sixth Grade Class of Stephen Foster School. A most interesting program was presented by 16 pupils with their teacher, Miss Gibson. They described their experiences with bird study and gave brief reports on the life history of local birds.

"USABLE PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL—THE BUNSEN CLUB OF ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL" (A Junior Academy of Science Club in Action). Sabra Hansen described her unusual ex-

periences feeding Hummingbirds with sugar water in test-tubes in her own yard. Harriet Clark explained an interesting method of framing bird pictures to test the knowledge of their members. Using large Audubon charts, she placed a rectangle over a single picture, causing it to stand out by itself. Mary Ann Eschrich directed the playing of Dr. Arthur A. Allen's recordings of bird songs and at the same time had his Kodachrome slides of the birds projected on a screen.

"BIRDS PORTRAITS IN COLOR" by Reverend John Baechle, St. Joseph's College. He showed close-ups of the heads of many of our eastern birds, taken in his banding operations on the college campus. The Kodachromes had been taken on half of a 4 by 5 sheet of film which made a large lantern slide. The details were remarkably clear and accurate. His descriptions of his experiences with bird banding were most interesting. He also had a display of large color prints which had been made from his slides.

K. O. S. FIELD TRIP IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

On Saturday, April 15, 1950, Mabel Slack led a field trip to Cave Hill Cemetery, Indian Hills Swamp, and Peiper's farm on the River Road. Among the out-of-town people present were the Rev. John Baechle of St. Joseph's College and Dr. E. P. Edwards of the University of Kentucky. The most outstanding species observed was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Indian Hills area, seen for the third consecutive year. Previous dates as reported by Steilberg (Ky. Warbler, 25: 16 and 75, 1949) have been May 24, 1948 and May 21, 1949. Also a dead Song Sparrow was picked up with no visible marks of injury upon it. It was made into a study skin by Dr. Edwards. Because, perhaps, of the late spring the list of warblers is small. The total number of species was 57, as follows: Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; Gadwall, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 11; Baldpate, 2; Shoveller, 4; Lesser Scaup, 2; Turkey Vulture, 2; Coot, 3; Killdeer, 5; Lesser Yellow-legs, 3; Mourning Dove, 13; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Phoebe, 1; Tree Swallow, 3; Rough-winged Swallow, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 4; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Bewick's Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 4; Catbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 14; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 2; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 7; Starling, 11; Black and White Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Sycamore Warbler, 1; Louisiana Waterthrush, 1; English Sparrow, 15; Meadowlark, 3; Redwing, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Cardinal, 5; Goldfinch, 4; Eastern Towhee, 1; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 10; Chipping Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 10; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 5. Total, 57 species.

—HARRIET CLARK, 3118 Meadowlark Road, Louisville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

LOVELL, HARVEY B., and SLACK, MABEL. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGY, Occasional Publication No. 1, Kentucky Ornithological Society, Selby Smith, Printer, Bowling Green, 1949. Price: \$1.00.

All students of ornithology in Kentucky will welcome this first Occasional Publication of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. In it are listed all known books and articles about Kentucky birds to the end of 1948. Short annotations are added to significant publications or to those that seem to need explanation. Publications of each author are arranged chronologically. As an introduction to the bulletin Dr. Lovell has written a "Brief History of Kentucky Ornithology," which is the first essay of the sort to be published. The entire bulletin represents years of painstaking work by the authors and sets a milestone for ornithology in our state. All serious students of birds now and in the future will need to own a copy of this valuable contribution to scientific knowledge.

—GORDON WILSON, Bowling Green.

STANFORD, J. K. THE AWL-BIRDS. Devin-Adair Co., New York, 1949. This fascinating little story is based on the return of the Avocet to England as a breeding bird after an absence of more than a hundred years. The Avocet, one of the most spectacular shorebirds, has been called awl-bird by the English countryman because of the resemblance of its bill to a cobbler's awl. The book holds you spellbound from beginning to end as you "sweat it out" with Derick Gloyne, the returned mine sapper, in his fight to retain the peace and quiet of his countryside against the depredations of an oologist. The book has all the attributes of a modern thriller yet all the while featuring the activities of a colony of birds on an English marsh. The real colony of Avocets has been similarly watched and its location kept secret.

—ETHEL W. LOVELL, Louisville.

BIRD PAINTINGS. For the Sixth consecutive year Mr. Howard Rollin of Weldona, Colorado, presented to the K. O. S. one of his paintings as a Christmas Gift. A pair of Blackburnian Warblers, approximately life size, perched on an evergreen branch against a blue sky, form a striking picture. Mr. Rollins has portrayed in exquisite detail the highly colored plumage of the birds in this 8-by-10-inch painting. Other paintings given to us by Mr. Rollin are the Cardinal, Kentucky Warbler, Redstart, Bobolink, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Orders for copies of these or other species may be sent to Mr. Rollin, Route 1, Weldona, Colorado. His prices are \$5.00 for a 6-by-8, \$10.00 for a 8-by-10, and \$20.00 for a 12-by-18-inch painting. Members who would like to have an original painting, not just a print, are urged to contact him directly.

—EVELYN SCHNEIDER, Custodian.

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB MEETING. The meeting was held at Jackson Mill's 4-H Camp in West Virginia from April 27 to 30. Burt L. Monroe, Sr., was elected second Vice-President, a promotion from Treasurer, a position he had held for 5 years. Leonard Brecher gave a report on the activities of the Committee on Endowments of which he has been chairman. Robert Mengel gave a report on his activities as chairman of the committee on illustrations. A total of 26 papers made up the program, of which those on West Virginia and the adjacent Appalachian Highlands were of most interest to Kentuckians. There were also two papers on the Cincinnati region by Emerson Kemsies and G. Ronald Austing and Worth Randle. James Tanner in describing the distribution of the Black-capped Chickadee and the Carolina Chickadee stated that only the latter is found on Big Black Mountain in Kentucky. The meeting as

a whole was perhaps the most successful one ever held by the club because of the attractive location and the excellent work of the local committee under the direction of Maurice Brooks.

JUNIOR ACADEMY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

During the Christmas vacation 55 persons made 9 bird counts in various parts of Kentucky under the sponsorship of the Junior Academy. First prize was awarded to the group from Du Pont Manual of Louisville by a committee of the K. O. S. appointed by President Leonard Brecher. There were several superior counts and many very good ones this year.

Du Pont Manual, Louisville, Dec. 31, 1949. Total species 50, total birds 2199. Their list included: Great Horned Owl, 2; Barn Owl, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Tree Sparrow, 3; Mourning Dove, 8; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Hermit Thrush, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 2.

—ROBERT STEILBERG, JERRY SMITH, BILLY MORRIS.

Valley High, Jefferson Co., Dec. 25 and Dec. 28, 1949. Total species 45, total individuals, 945. Their list included: Canvasback Duck, 10; Old Squaw, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Horned Lark, 20; Tree Sparrow, 5.

—BOBBY KAISER, MARY ANN HUFLAGE, JO ANN BUNCH,
DORIS LYNNINGER (Ethel Lovell, sponsor).

La Grange High, Dec. 28 and Dec. 30, 1949. Total species 19, total individuals, 293. This list included: Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Bobwhite, 6; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Song Sparrow, 6; Goldfinch, 1; Song Sparrow, 6.

—LAWRENCE O. BARR.

Breckinridge Training School, Morehead, Dec. 19, 1949. Total species, 10; total individuals, 128. This list included: Bronze Grackle, numerous; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Chickadee, 14; Song Sparrow, 6.

—BOBBY COMPTON, JAMES EWEN.

J. M. Atherton High School, Louisville, Dec. 17, 1949. Total, 44 species; 673 individuals. This list included: Black Duck, 16; Ring-neck Duck, 1; American Golden-eye, 4; Bufflehead, 5; Marsh Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 8; Short-eared Owl, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Fox Sparrow, 1.

—HARRIET CLARK, SABRA HANSON.

Model High School, Madison Co., Dec. 29, 1949 and Jan. 1, 1950. Species, 7; Total individuals, 213. This list included: Turkey Vulture, 1; Mourning Dove, 3; Carolina Wren, 9; Bronze Grackle, 19.

—HAROLD WARFORD.

Old Kentucky Home, Bardstown, Dec. 21, Dec. 22, Dec. 26, 1949. Total species, 27; total individuals, 314. This list included: Kingfisher, 1; Bluebird, 9; Robin, 3; Goldfinch, 14; Redwing, 1; Junco, 63; Towhee, 1.

—TOMMY NUTGRASS.